out in our only ♂. It is narrow, and bears a peculiar spine as shown in the figure. Above this "finger" there is another process, which is club-shaped. In which way this process is connected with the clasper or the finger we cannot make out. Above the large flap there appears a small stylet-like process, the homology of which is unknown to us; it is in the same position on both sides of the specimen, and seems to project from the inside of the large flap. The manubrium (M) is broad and curved upwards, its apex being pointed. The ninth sternite (IX st.) is partly concealed by the clasper; the portion which is clearly visible has the outline as shown in the figure. The ninth tergite bears a rather strong bristle at its apical edge. The lateral portion of the tenth tergite (X t.) is rounded off distally and is covered with minute hairs, this sclerite being apparently separated by a suture from the dorsal central sclerite of the tenth tergite. ♀. The eighth abdominal tergite is emarginate at the apex. There are about four long bristles from the ventral apical angle inwards and about as many on the upper half of the lateral surface, besides numerous small bristles which are placed on the lower half of the lateral surface. The anal tergite (= tenth tergite) has one long bristle. The stylet is nearly three times as long as it is broad at the base. *Length*, ♂ 2 mm., ♀ 2·7 mm.

We have one ♂ and three ♀ ♀ from Valparaiso, Chile, off *Akodon olivaceus*, *Akodon longipilis*, and *Phyllotis darwini*, collected by Mr. J. A. Wolffsohn.

Tring Park, Tring:
December, 1908.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF *KERMES* DESTRUCTIVE TO OAK TREES IN NORTH INDIA.

BY E. ERNEST GREEN.

In July last Mr. E P. Stebbing, Imperial Forest Zoologist to the Government of India, wrote me as follows:—"I am sending you some scale insects upon a twig of oak (*Quercus incana*) from the N. W. Himalayas above Bhim Tal. The oak trees over a considerable area were infested with this scale which was killing them, all the crowns being thickly infested."

In view of the economic importance of this pest, it was desirable that the species should be determined. It proved to be a *Kermes*. Comparison with examples and descriptions of other known members of that genus convinced me that this one was amply distinct, a conclusion in which Mr. Robert Newstead and Prof. Cockerell (to whom I submitted examples of the insect) concurred. I append a formal description of the new species.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Kermes himalayensis, *n. sp.*

Adult female insect approximately hemispherical, sometimes slightly oblong, with a broad base of attachment, often much distorted by crowding. Skin smooth and polished, obscurely punctate. Ground colour varying from milky-white to fulvous or pale castaneous, closely marbled and spotted, the markings varying from dark castaneous to black. To the naked eye the pattern appears to be in the form of three longitudinal series of large irregular spots (see fig. 1), but under the microscope, this character is lost in a more general marmoration, intensified and condensed into three irregular longitudinal stripes (see fig. 2). Antennæ rudimentary, reduced to two short stout joints, the apex with four or five stout hairs (fig. 3). Legs completely atrophied, no trace of these limbs remaining. I have been unable to satisfy myself whether the anal ring is normally setiferous or not. It displays six distinct alveoli, suggestive of the bases of hairs; sometimes one or another of these alveoli is associated with a typical stout hair, in other examples these spots give rise to small points, but in most examples no process of any kind can be detected. Anal aperture apparently opening on to the venter; partially surrounded by a few small stout spines and numerous compound circular spinnerets similar to those found on other parts of the venter. There are also two longer hair-like spines, set on small tubercles, representing the anal lobes and caudal setæ. Derm with numerous minute tubular spinnerets, and a few small hair-like spines. Venter with irregular transverse series of circular spinnerets, each with a larger central opening surrounded by a ring of minute pores (fig. 4). Size very variable, some apparently fully developed individuals being scarcely one-fourth the size of the others. A well developed isolated female measures 4 mm. in diameter with a depth of 2·5 mm.

Immature females oval, narrower in front, posterior extremity broadly rounded, flattish, with irregular median and sublateral rounded tuberculose ridges. Colour reddish-castaneous. The insect, in this stage of development, might be mistaken for a species of *Lecanium*.

Other stages unknown.

Habitat: Female insects crowded on twigs and smaller branches of oak (*Quercus incana*). N. W. Himalayas, India. Collected by Mr. E. P. Stebbing.

Description of Figures.

1.—Female insects on branch, natural size.
2.—Adult female, viewed from behind, × 7.
3.—Antenna of adult female, × 450.
4.—Ventral compound spinnerets, × 450.

Bearstead, Kent:
December, 1908.

A protest against the varying methods of abbreviation of authors' names used in entomological works.—It seems to me that it is time some Entomologist protested against certain forms of abbreviation of authors' names that appear to be gradually coming into use. One of the commonest methods adopted is that of dropping out the vowels. This offers no difficulty, perhaps, in the case of well-known names, but when the name is not a familiar one, then all the five vowels have to be tried in succession, often for the second letter in the name, before even a clue can be obtained! This has been my experience, more than once, and much time lost. The plan mainly followed in the Catalogues of *Coleoptera* of Gemminger and von Harold, and of Reitter, that of abbreviating the name before the second orthird vowel, according to the distinctive requirement of the case, seems to me to be much the best course to follow, *e.g.*, "Westw." for Westwood, "Schönh." for Schönherr, "Waterh." for Waterhouse, "Reitt." for Reitter, &c. Again, if the name is shortened too much, how are we to know "Wied" from "Wiedemann," "Waltl" from "Walton," "Stevens" from "Stevenson," "Sharp" from "Sharpe," "Ritter" from "Reitter," and so on? In the "Entomological News" for 1907, p. 385, I notice "Cwfd." used. Who is to know that this is intended for Crawford?—G. C. Champion, Horsell, Woking: *December 5th*, 1908.

Further note on the Scottish examples of Notiophilus strigifrons, Baudi?—Since the publication of my note on the mountain form of *N. aquaticus*, L., var. *strigifrons*, Baudi? (Ent. Mo. Mag., xliv, p. 271), Captain Deville has been kind enough to send me a specimen of what he supposes to be Baudi's species, taken near the snow, on the Alpes-Maritimes, at St. Etienne de Tinée. This is like the Scottish insect, except that it has the striæ of the elytra more distinct posteriorly, much as in the more elongate *N. pusillus*, Waterh. (*bigeminus*, Thoms), all of them having two pores near the tip, a character I omitted to mention in connection with the Scottish specimens. If *N. pusillus*, therefore, is retained as distinct *N. strigifrons* will have to be treated as a form of it, and not of *N. aquaticus*.—Id.: *December 10th*, 1908.

Notiophilus pusillus, Waterh.: a correction.—On a further examination of the specimens which I had supposed to be, and recorded as, *Notiophilus pusillus*, Waterh. (Ent. Mo. Mag. Ser. 2, Vol. xix, p. 103), I find that they are nothing more than *N. palustris* with very dark legs. This mistake should certainly not have been made, as *N. pusillus* differs structurally from *N. aquaticus*. The latter has the head (including the eyes) distinctly narrower in proportion to the elytra, and the elytra themselves are much less contracted behind. I have now